

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for lowering at least one risk factor in a patient suffering from said risk factor, comprising

identifying that said patient suffers from said at least one risk factor; and

administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby lowering said risk factor, wherein said at least one risk factor comprises a risk factor selected from the group consisting of high blood pressure, high blood glucose concentration, and high blood triglycerides concentration.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein one of said at least one risk factor ~~comprises~~is high blood pressure .

3-4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein one of said at least one risk factor ~~comprises~~is high blood glucose concentration.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said patient suffers from at least two risk factors, at least one of which is selected from the group consisting of high blood pressure, high blood glucose concentration, and high blood triglycerides concentration, and at least one selected from the group consisting of high LDL (low-density lipoprotein) susceptibility to retention, high LDL susceptibility to aggregation, high blood total cholesterol, high LDL levels, and high VLDL (very low-density lipoprotein) concentration.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, for treating a patient suffering from high blood triglycerides and high LDL (low-density lipoprotein) levels without decreasing the HDL (high density lipoprotein) level of said patient, comprising

administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby treating the high blood triglycerides and high LDL levels without decreasing the HDL level of said patient.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a patient suffering from at least one condition, comprising

identifying that said patient suffers from said at least one condition; and

administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said at least one condition is selected from the group consisting of hypertension and chronic renal failure.

10. (Previously Presented) A method for preventing a patient from suffering from at least one condition, comprising

identifying that said patient is in high risk to suffer from said at least one condition; and

administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said at least one condition is selected from the group consisting of hypertension and chronic renal failure.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, comprising obtaining said licorice extract in a method comprising extracting licorice in ethanol.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, comprising obtaining said licorice extract in a method comprising extracting licorice in ethanol.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, comprising obtaining said licorice extract in a method comprising extracting licorice in ethanol.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, comprising obtaining said licorice extract in a method comprising extracting licorice in ethanol.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, comprising obtaining said licorice extract in a method comprising extracting licorice in ethanol.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said licorice extract dissolves in ethanol.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for lowering at least one risk factor in a patient suffering from said at least one risk factor, comprising

identifying that said patient suffers from said at least one risk factor; and

administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, thereby lowering said risk factor, wherein said at least one risk factor comprises a risk factor selected from the group consisting of high blood total cholesterol, high blood LDL levels, high blood triglycerides concentration and high blood VLDL (very low-density lipoprotein) concentration.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein one of said at least one risk factor ~~comprises-is~~ high blood total cholesterol.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein one of said at least one risk factor ~~comprises-is~~ high LDL levels.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein one of said at least one risk factor ~~comprises~~is high blood triglycerides concentration.

27. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 23, wherein one of said at least one risk factor ~~comprises~~is high blood VLDL concentration.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein one of said at least one condition ~~comprises~~is hypertension.

29. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein one of said at least one condition ~~comprises~~is chronic renal failure.

30. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a patient suffering from at least one condition, comprising

identifying that said patient suffers from said at least one condition; and

administering to said patient an effective amount of a licorice extract which is water-insoluble and free from glycyrrhizinic acid, wherein said at least one condition comprises a condition selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia and hypertriglyceridemia.

31. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein one of said at least one condition ~~comprises~~is hypercholesterolemia.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 30, wherein one of said at least one condition ~~comprises~~is hypertriglyceridemia.